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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
20 March-28 April 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

Duration and venue of the session

1. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 March to 28 April 2000. The first meeting will be convened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 20 March 2000.

Provisional agenda

2. The provisional agenda, prepared in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, is reproduced below.

Inter-sessional and pre-sessional working groups

3. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission is preceded by meetings of nine working groups in connection with the following items:

(a) Item 7: An open-ended working group established to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development (Commission resolution1998/72, Economic and Social Council decision 1998/269) is scheduled to meet from 13 to 17 December 1999.

(b) Item 9 (b): The Working Group on Situations, composed of five members of the Commission, is scheduled to meet from 21 to 25 February 2000 to examine situations referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970 (Commission resolution 1990/55, Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41);

(c) Item 10: An open-ended working group established to elaborate policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights (Commission decision 1999/104, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/251) is scheduled to meet from 28 February to 10 March 2000;

(d) Item 11 (a): An open-ended working group established to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Commission resolution 1999/30, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/237) met from 4 to 15 October 1999;

(e) Item 13: An open-ended working group for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts (Commission resolution 1999/80, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/249) is scheduled to meet from 10 to 21 January 2000;

(f) Item 13: An open-ended working group for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Commission resolution 1999/80, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/249) is scheduled to meet from 24 January to 4 February 2000;

(g) Item 15: An open-ended working group established to elaborate a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (Commission resolution 1999/50, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/240) met from 18 to 29 October 1999;

(h) Item 15: An open-ended working group established to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system (Commission resolution 1999/52, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/242) is scheduled to meet from 14 to 23 February 2000;

(i) Item 20: An open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights (statement made by the Chairperson of the Commission on 29 April 1999; Economic and Social Council decision 1999/256) is scheduled to meet from 27 September to 1 October 1999, from 6 to 10 December 1999 and from 7 to 11 February 2000.

4. Any decisions and resolutions affecting the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission that may be adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session will be brought to the attention of the Commission in an addendum to the present document. The annotations to the items listed in the provisional agenda will also be issued in an addendum.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Organization of the work of the session.

4. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights.

5. The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation.

6. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination.

7. The right to development.

8. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

9. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, including:

   (a) Question of human rights in Cyprus;

   (b) Procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

10. Economic, social and cultural rights.

11. Civil and political rights, including the questions of:

   (a) Torture and detention;

   (b) Disappearances and summary executions;

   (c) Freedom of expression;

   (d) Independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, impunity;

   (e) Religious intolerance;

   (f) States of emergency;

   (g) Conscientious objection to military service.

12. Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective:

    (a) Violence against women.

13. Rights of the child.

14. Specific groups and individuals:

    (a) Migrant workers;

    (b) Minorities;

    (c) Mass exoduses and displaced persons;

    (d) Other vulnerable groups and individuals.

15. Indigenous issues.

16. Report of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights:

    (a) Report and draft decisions;

    (b) Election of members.

17. Promotion and protection of human rights:

    (a) Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

    (b) Human rights defenders;

    (c) Information and education;

    (d) Science and environment.

18. Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms:

    (a) Treaty bodies;

    (b) National institutions and regional arrangements;

    (c) Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights.

19. Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights.

20. Rationalization of the work of the Commission.

21. (a) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission;

(b) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.

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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
20 March-28 April 2000

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General

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Item 1. Election of officers

1. Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that "at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required".

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that "the Commission shall at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, ... adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda".

3. In its resolution 1998/84, the Commission decided to adopt the proposal for the restructuring of its agenda submitted by the Chairman of the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, as contained in the annex to that resolution.

4. The Commission will have before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/2000/1) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure, as well as the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda.

Item 3. Organization of the work of the session

5. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission decided, in its decision 1999/112, that the fifty-sixth session of the Commission should be scheduled to take place from 20 March to 28 April 2000. The Economic and Social Council approved the recommendation in its decision 1999/254.

6. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the decisions it adopted at its fifty-fifth session concerning the organization of its work (see E/1999/23-E/CN.4/1999/167, paras. 9-18), in particular those relating to the limitation of the frequency and duration of statements (paras. 9-11), the opening and closure of the list of speakers (para. 12), the submission of draft resolutions (para. 13) and the requirement of a quorum (para. 14) as well as to the ruling made by the Chair on 20 April 1999 concerning the right to raise points of order in the Commission (para. 23). Furthermore, the attention of the Commission is drawn to the relevant resolutions concerning control and limitation of documentation (inter alia, General Assembly resolution 33/56 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50).

7. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Economic and Social Council decision 1999/255, by which the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1999/113, decided to authorize, if possible within existing financial resources, 30 fully serviced additional meetings, including summary records, in accordance with rules 29 and 31 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, for the Commission's fifty-sixth session. The Council approved the Commission's request to the Chairperson of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session to make every effort to organize the work of the session within the times normally allotted, so that the authorized meetings would be utilized only if they proved to be absolutely necessary.

8. In connection with the present item, the Commission will also have before it a note by the secretariat containing statistics relating to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/8).

9. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990 in which the Council authorized the Commission to meet exceptionally between its regular sessions, provided that a majority of States members of the Commission so agreed. In this connection, the Economic and Social Council adopted, on 28 July 1993, decision 1993/286 on the procedure for special sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

Working groups

10. The session is preceded by meetings of the nine inter-sessional and pre-sessional working groups referred to in E/CN.4/2000/1, paragraph 3 (a) to (i).

Composition of the Commission

11. The composition of the Commission for 2000 is the following. The term of membership of each State expires on 31 December of the year indicated in brackets.

Argentina (2002), Bangladesh (2000), Bhutan (2000), Botswana (2000), Brazil (2002), Burundi (2002), Canada (2000), Chile (2000), China (2002), Colombia (2001), Congo (2000), Cuba (2000), Czech Republic (2002), Ecuador (2002), El Salvador (2000), France (2001), Germany (2002), Guatemala (2000), India (2000), Indonesia (2002), Italy (2002), Japan (2002), Latvia (2001), Liberia (2001), Luxembourg (2000), Madagascar (2001), Mauritius (2001), Mexico (2001), Morocco (2000), Nepal (2000), Niger (2001), Nigeria (2002), Norway (2001), Pakistan (2001), Peru (2000), Philippines (2000), Poland (2000), Portugal (2002), Qatar (2001), Republic of Korea (2001), Romania (2001), Russian Federation (2000), Rwanda (2000), Senegal (2000), Spain (2002), Sri Lanka (2000), Sudan (2000), Swaziland (2002), Tunisia (2000), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2000), United States of America (2001), Venezuela (2000), Zambia (2002).

Situation of human rights in Colombia

12. In the statement on the situation of human rights in Colombia, agreed on by consensus by the Commission, made by the Chairman on 27 April 1999, the Commission, inter alia, requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to it at its next session a detailed report on the activities of her Office containing an analysis by the Office in Bogotá of the situation of human rights in Colombia, in accordance with the provisions of the agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Office of the High Commissioner on the operation of the permanent office in Bogotá (see E/1999/23-E/CN.4/1999/167, para. 32). The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/11).

Item 4. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights

13. The General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993 decided to create the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, inter alia, requested the High Commissioner to report annually on her activities, in accordance with her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly. The Commission will have before it the annual report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/12).

14. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1999/54, entitled "Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", requested the High Commissioner to submit a separate report containing a comprehensive assessment of field presences to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session and invited the High Commissioner to submit information pursuant to that resolution in her annual report to the Commission. This information will be included in the addendum to the annual report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/12/Add.1). This document will also contain information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner to implement Commission resolutions 1998/21, entitled "Tolerance and pluralism as indivisible elements in the promotion and protection of human rights" and 1999/57, entitled "Promotion of the right to democracy".

15. In connection with the present item and with item 18 of the provisional agenda, the attention of the Commission is drawn to a note by the High Commissioner transmitting the report of the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme, held in Geneva from 31 May to 3 June 1999 (E/CN.4/2000/5) (see also para. 209 below).

Item 5. The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation

Question of the use of mercenaries

16. At its forty-third session, the Commission, in resolution 1987/16, decided to appoint for one year a special rapporteur to examine the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. Subsequently, Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros (Peru) was appointed as Special Rapporteur of the Commission. In its resolution 1999/3, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to report his findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the right of peoples to self-determination, with specific recommendations, to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/14).

Situation in occupied Palestine

17. In its resolution 1999/55, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to transmit the resolution to the Government of Israel and to all other Governments, to distribute it on the widest possible scale and to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the

convening of its fifty-sixth session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the resolution by the Government of Israel. It also decided to consider the situation in occupied Palestine under the present item as a matter of high priority. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/13).

18. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/155, entitled "Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination", 54/151, entitled "Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination" and 54/152, entitled "The right of Palestinian people to self-determination".

Item 6. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination

19. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission adopted resolution 1999/78, entitled "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance". Having recalled that, in its resolution 52/111, the General Assembly had decided to convene a world conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to be held not later than 2001, and that the Commission on Human Rights would serve as the preparatory committee for the World Conference, the Commission, inter alia, decided to submit the report of its sessional open-ended Working Group (E/CN.4/1999/16 and Corr.1 and 2) to the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference, bearing in mind that some of the provisions which it contains might be amended or supplemented.

20. The Commission also decided that the sessions of the Preparatory Committee scheduled in 2000 and 2001 will be headed by the same bureau composed of 10 members, i.e. 2 representatives per regional group, in order to ensure continuity and the adequate representation of all Member States of the United Nations. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of that resolution. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/15).

21. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1999/12, endorsed various proposals contained in Commission resolution 1999/78.

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia

22. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/20, Mr. Glèlè-Ahanhanzo (Benin) was appointed Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance. In its resolution 1999/12, the Economic and Social Council extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years. In its resolution 1999/78, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to include in his report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session information on the measures taken to implement his recommendations, and to undertake follow-up visits, if necessary. The Commission will have before it the reports of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/16 and Add.1).

Defamation of religions

23. In its resolution 1999/82, the Commission decided to remain seized of the matter at its fifty-sixth session.

24. The Commission will also have before it the annual reports on racial discrimination submitted by the International Labour Organization (E/CN.4/2000/17) and by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (E/CN.4/2000/18).

25. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft decision 1, in chapter I.B of the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54) and to resolutions 1999/6, 1999/7 and decision 1999/106 of the Sub-Commission.

26. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/153, entitled "Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", and 54/154, entitled "Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance".

Item 7. The right to development

27. The Declaration on the Right to Development was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986. The Commission decided to include this question under a separate item on its agenda in its resolution 1989/45.

28. In its resolution 1993/22, the Commission decided to establish a working group on the right to development composed of 15 experts with a mandate to identify obstacles to the implementation and realization of the Declaration on the Right to Development and to recommend ways and means towards the realization of the right to development by all States. The Working Group held five sessions in the period 1993-1995.

29. In its resolution 1996/15, the Commission decided to establish, for a two-year period, an intergovernmental working group composed of 10 experts with the mandate to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development in its integrated and multidimensional aspects. The working group held two sessions in the period 1996-1997.

30. Upon the recommendation of the Commission in its resolution 1998/72, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1998/269, approved the establishment of a follow-up mechanism, initially for a period of three years, consisting of:

(a) The establishment of an open-ended working group to meet for a period of five working days each year, after the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission, with a mandate:

(i) To monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, at the national and international levels, providing recommendations thereon and further analysing obstacles to its full enjoyment, focusing each year on specific commitments in the Declaration;

(ii) To review reports and any other information submitted by States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the relationship between their activities and the right to development;

(iii) To present for the consideration of the Commission on Human Rights a sessional report on its deliberations, including, inter alia, advice to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the implementation of the right to development, and suggesting possible programmes of technical assistance at the request of interested countries with the aim of promoting the implementation of the right to development;

(b) The appointment by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights of an independent expert with high competence in the field of the right to development, with a mandate to present to the working group at each of its sessions a study on the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development as a basis for a focused discussion, taking into account, inter alia, the deliberations and suggestions of the working group.

Mr. Arjun Sengupta (India) was subsequently appointed as the Independent Expert.

31. In its resolutions 1998/72 and 1999/79, the Commission invited the High Commissioner for Human Rights to present a report to the Commission each year for the duration of the mechanism, to provide interim reports to the working group and to make those reports available to the independent expert, in each case covering:

(a) The activities of her Office relating to the implementation of the right to development as contained in her mandate;

(b) The implementation of resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly with regard to the right to development;

(c) Inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system for the implementation of relevant resolutions of the Commission in that regard.

32. In its resolution 1999/79, the Commission also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the various provisions of that resolution.

33. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/20). It will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1999/79 (E/CN.4/2000/19).

34. The working group established by Commission resolution 1998/72 to monitor and review the implementation of the right to development met in Geneva on 13 and 14 September 1999. It decided to suspend its deliberations and resume its work again in December. The meeting of the working group scheduled to be held from 13 to 17 December 1999 was not convened. Should the working group meet in early 2000, its report will be issued as document E/CN.4/2000/21.

35. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolutions 1999/9 and 1999/15 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session and to General Assembly resolution 54/175, entitled "Right to development".

Item 8. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

36. In its resolution 1993/2 A, the Commission decided to appoint a special rapporteur with the mandate to investigate Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law, international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, to receive communications, to hear witnesses and to report to the Commission at its future sessions, until the end of the Israeli occupation of those territories. Following the resignation of Mr. René Felber (Switzerland) in 1995 and of Mr. Hannu Halinen (Finland) in 1999, Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli (Italy) was appointed Special Rapporteur in December 1999. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/25).

37. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission adopted resolution 1999/5, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution and to provide the Commission with all United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that dealt with the conditions in which the citizens of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories were living under the Israeli occupation. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/22) and a note by the Secretary-General listing the aforementioned United Nations reports (E/CN.4/2000/24).

38. The Commission also adopted resolution 1999/6 on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. In this regard, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/23).

39. In its resolution 1999/7 on Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the Commission decided to continue the consideration of this question at its fifty-sixth session.

40. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/76, entitled "Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories", 54/79, entitled

"Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem" and 54/80, entitled "The occupied Syrian Golan".

Item 9. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, including:

(a) Question of human rights in Cyprus

(b) Procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII)

41. By resolution 1164 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, the Economic and Social Council welcomed the decision of the Commission in its resolution 2 B (XXII) of 25 March 1966 to consider, at its twenty-third session, the question of its tasks and functions and its role in relation to violations of human rights. In resolution 2144 A (XXI) of 26 October 1966, the General Assembly invited the Council and the Commission to give urgent consideration to ways and means of improving the capacity of the United Nations to put a stop to violations of human rights wherever they might occur. Pursuant to these resolutions, the Commission adopted resolution 8 (XXIII) of 16 March 1967, in which it decided to give annual consideration to an item on the question of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The title of the item was later modified by the Commission. Subsequently, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII) on the question of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

42. In resolution 32/130, the General Assembly decided that, in approaching human rights questions within the United Nations system, the international community should accord, or continue to accord, priority to the search for solutions to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights of peoples and persons affected by various situations referred to in the resolution. The Assembly reiterated those views in subsequent resolutions, including resolution 37/199. In resolution 34/175, entitled "Effective action against mass and flagrant violations of human rights", the Assembly urged the appropriate United Nations bodies, within their mandates, particularly the Commission, to take timely and effective action in existing and future cases of mass and flagrant violations of human rights. By resolution 37/200, the General Assembly urged all States to cooperate with the Commission in its study of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world and requested the Commission to continue its efforts to improve the capacity of the United Nations system to take urgent action in cases of serious violations of human rights.

Situation of human rights in Sierra Leone

43. In its resolution 1999/1, the Commission decided to discontinue consideration of the human rights situation in Sierra Leone under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and to take up consideration of the matter under the public procedure, under the agenda item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world", at its fifty-sixth session. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was requested to apprise the Commission at its fifty-sixth

session of the reports of the Secretary-General about violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Sierra Leone, including, to the extent possible, references contained in reports submitted to the Commission on Human Rights.

44. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the note by the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/31).

Situation of human rights in Kosovo

45. In its resolution 1999/2, the Commission requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Commission urgently on the situation of human rights and the humanitarian crisis relating to Kosovo and on the implementation of the provisions of that resolution.

46. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the reports of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/7, E/CN.4/2000/10 and E/CN.4/2000/32).

Human rights in Cuba

47. In its resolution 1999/8, the Commission decided to consider this matter at its fifty-sixth session.

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

48. Following the death of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Felix Ermacora (Austria), in February 1995, Mr. Choong-Hyun Paik (Republic of Korea) was appointed Special Rapporteur. Following the resignation of Mr. Paik, Mr. Kamal Hossain (Bangladesh) was appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, in December 1998. In its resolution 1999/9, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and requested him to report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/33).

Situation of human rights in Burundi

49. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/90, Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil) was appointed Special Rapporteur with the task of drawing up, on the basis of all the information he considers relevant and his contacts with the Burundi authorities and population, a report on the situation of human rights in Burundi. In its resolution 1999/10, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and requested him to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. Following the resignation of Mr. Pinheiro, Ms. Marie-Thérèse Kéita-Bocoum (Côte d'Ivoire) was appointed Special Rapporteur, in August 1999. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/34).

Human rights situation in southern Lebanon and west Bekaa

50. In its resolution 1999/12, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel, to invite it to provide information concerning the extent of its implementation thereof and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the results of his efforts in that regard. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/28).

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

51. In its resolution 1999/13, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Representative, as contained in Commission resolution 1984/54, for a further year and requested him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Representative, Mr. Maurice Copithorne (Canada) (E/CN.4/2000/35).

Situation of human rights in Iraq

52. In its resolution 1999/14, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as contained in Commission resolution 1991/74 and subsequent resolutions, for a further year, and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report on the situation of human rights in Iraq to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. Following the resignation of Mr. Max van der Stoel (Netherlands) from the post of the Special Rapporteur in November 1999, Mr. Andreas Mavrommatis (Cyprus) was appointed Special Rapporteur in December 1999. The Commission will have before it a note by the secretariat (E/CN.4/2000/37).

Situation of human rights in the Sudan

53. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/60, Mr. Gáspár Bíró (Hungary) was appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. Following the resignation of Mr. Bíró, the Chairman of the Commission appointed Mr. Leonardo Franco (Argentina) Special Rapporteur, in August 1998. In its resolution 1999/15, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further year and requested him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/36).

Cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies

54. In its resolution 1999/16, the Commission invited the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-sixth session containing a compilation and analysis of any available information, from all appropriate sources, on alleged reprisals against those who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies, or who have provided testimony or information to them; those who avail or have availed themselves of procedures established under United Nations auspices for the protection of human

rights and fundamental freedoms and all those who have provided legal assistance to them for this purpose; those who submit or have submitted communications under procedures established by human rights instruments; and those who are relatives of victims of human rights violations. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/101).

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

55. Following the resignation of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Yozo Yokota (Japan) in May 1996, Mr. Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1999/17, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as contained in Commission resolution 1992/58, for a further year, and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/38). The Commission will also have before it a report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/186 (E/CN.4/2000/29).

The situation of human rights in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

56. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1992/S-1/1, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki (Poland) was appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Following the resignation of Mr. Mazowiecki in July 1995, the Chairman of the Commission appointed Ms. Elisabeth Rehn (Finland) Special Rapporteur. Following the resignation of Ms. Rehn in January 1998, Mr. Jiri Dienstbier (Czech Republic) was appointed Special Rapporteur, in March 1998.

57. In its resolution 1999/18, the Commission decided to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and requested him, in addition to the activities mandated in Commission resolutions 1994/72, 1996/71 and 1997/57:

(a) To work vigorously in support of the initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate human rights violations and atrocities committed in Kosovo;

(b) To pay particular attention to discrimination against persons belonging to ethnic minorities and displaced persons, refugees and returnees who fall within his mandate, with specific reference to their economic, social and cultural rights;

(c) To address human rights issues that transcend the borders between the States covered by his mandate and which can be addressed only through concerted action in more than one country;

(d) To work with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the United Nations in dealing with the question of missing persons and to include in his report to the Commission information about activities concerning missing persons in the former Yugoslavia.

The Special Rapporteur was requested to report to the Commission, at its fifty-sixth session, on the work carried out in fulfilment of his mandate, and to make interim reports as appropriate about his work in support of the Kosovo initiative of the High Commissioner, and to present interim reports to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/39).

58. In the same resolution, the Commission requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General to take concerted action with the assistance of the international community to develop early-warning procedures in the field of human rights with a view to identifying situations that could lead to conflict or humanitarian tragedy, and requests the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on their efforts. The High Commissioner has dealt with this issue in her annual report to the Commission (E/CN.4/2000/12 - see para. 13 above).

Situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and assistance in the field of human rights

59. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/69, Mr. Alejandro Artucio Rodríguez (Uruguay) was appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea. In its resolution 1999/19, the Commission decided to appoint a special representative of the Commission for one year and requested him to monitor the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission requested the Special Representative to include in his/her report recommendations on the implementation of the programme of technical assistance, with particular emphasis on human rights, the administration of justice and the legislative reforms and the strengthening of the capacity of non-governmental organizations, as well as other groups of the civil society. Mr. Gustavo Gallón (Colombia) was appointed Special Representative of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea in August 1999. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Representative (E/CN.4/2000/40).

Situation of human rights in Rwanda

60. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1994/S-3/1, Mr. René Degni-Ségui (Côte d'Ivoire) was appointed Special Rapporteur to investigate the human rights situation in Rwanda. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1997/66, Mr. Michel Moussalli (Switzerland) was appointed Special Representative with the mandate to make recommendations on how to improve the human rights situation in Rwanda, to facilitate the creation and effective functioning of an independent national human rights commission in Rwanda, and further to make recommendations on situations in which technical assistance to the Government of Rwanda in the field of human rights may be appropriate.

61. In its resolution 1999/20, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further year and requested him to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session, in accordance with his mandate. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Representative (E/CN.4/2000/41).

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

62. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1994/87, Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1999/56, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further year, to request the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on the possibilities for the international community to assist with local capacity-building.

63. In the same resolution, the Commission also requested the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and a member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out, immediately after the signing of a ceasefire agreement or as soon as security considerations permit and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the National Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) between 1996 and 1997, a joint mission to investigate all massacres carried out on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including those in the province of South Kivu and other atrocities as referred to in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a view to bringing to justice those responsible, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

64. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/42) and a note by the secretariat (E/CN.4/2000/43).

East Timor

65. In the statement made on behalf of the Commission by the Chairperson of the fifty-fifth session on 23 April 1999 (see E/1999/23-E/CN.4/1999/167, para. 243), the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the situation of human rights in East Timor to it at its fifty-sixth session.

66. In resolution S-4/1 adopted by the Commission at its fourth special session, the Commission called upon the Secretary-General to establish an international commission of inquiry, with adequate representation of Asian experts, in order, in cooperation with the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights and thematic rapporteurs, to gather and compile systematically information on possible violations of human rights and acts which may constitute breaches of international humanitarian law committed in East Timor since the announcement in January 1999 of the vote and to provide the Secretary-General with its conclusions with a view to enabling him to make recommendations on future actions, and to make the report of the international commission of inquiry available to the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission decided to request the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to carry out

missions to East Timor and report on their findings to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session and, on an interim basis, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. The Commission requested the High Commissioner to keep the Commission informed of developments.

67. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/27) and notes by the secretariat (E/CN.4/2000/44 and E/CN.4/2000/45). The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the joint report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (E/CN.4/2000/115).

Action by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session

68. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the following resolutions adopted and Chairperson's statements made at the Sub-Commission's fifty-first session that are relevant to the present agenda item:

(a) Resolutions

1999/1. Situation of human rights in the Republic of the Congo

1999/2. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries

1999/3. Violations of the rights of human rights defenders in all countries

(b) Chairperson's statements

Situation of human rights in Togo

Situation of human rights in Belarus

Situation of human rights in Indonesia

Situation of human rights in Mexico

Persons in Nepal claiming to be refugees from Bhutan

(see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54, chap. II).

69. In its resolution 1999/1, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the situation of human rights in the Republic of the Congo to the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission at their next sessions. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/30).

Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

70. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/171, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia"; 54/177, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran"; 54/178, entitled "Situation of human rights in Iraq"; 54/179, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"; 54/182, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Sudan"; 54/183, entitled "Situation of human rights in Kosovo"; 54/184, entitled "Situation of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)"; 54/185, entitled "Situation of human rights in Afghanistan"; 54/186, entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar"; 54/187, entitled "Situation of human rights in Haiti"; 54/188, entitled "Situation of human rights in Rwanda".

Sub-item (a) Question of human rights in Cyprus

71. This question has been considered by the Commission since its thirty-second session, when it adopted resolution 4 (XXXIII) of 27 February 1976. In its decision 1999/103, the Commission decided to retain the sub-item on its agenda and to give it due priority at its fifty-sixth session, it being understood that action required by previous resolutions of the Commission on the subject would continue to remain operative, including the request to the Secretary-General to provide a report regarding their implementation. At its present session the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/26).

Sub-item (b) Procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII)

72. By resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970, the Economic and Social Council established a procedure for dealing with communications concerning alleged violations of human rights. Particular situations referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) were placed before the Commission for the first time at its thirtieth session in 1974. Since then particular situations relating to 75 countries have been placed before the Commission under the procedure.

73. From its thirtieth session, in 1974 (see Commission decision 3 (XXX) of 6 March 1974), the Commission annually set up a working group of five of its members, due account being taken of considerations of geographical distribution, to meet for one week prior to the Commission's following session to examine the particular situations referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and those situations of which the Commission was seized under that procedure, and to make recommendations to the Commission on the course of action to take in respect of each particular situation. By resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990, the Economic and Social Council, acting on the recommendation contained in Commission resolution 1990/55, authorized the establishment of the working group, to be referred to as the Working Group on Situations, on a permanent basis, instead of the earlier ad hoc basis.

74. At its thirtieth session, the Commission decided that the Governments concerned should henceforth be invited to submit written observations relating to the particular situations referred to the Commission (decision 3 (XXX), para. 4).

75. In 1978, the Commission decided to issue invitations, during the first week of each session, to the States directly concerned, asking them to send representatives to address the Commission and to answer any questions put by members of the Commission (decision 5 (XXXIV)).

76. In 1979, the Commission decided to authorize its Working Group on Situations in future to communicate the text of the relevant recommendations as soon as possible to the Governments directly concerned, in order to facilitate their participation in the examination of the situations concerning their countries, as provided for in Commission decision 5 (XXXIV) (decision 14 (XXXV)).

77. In 1980, the Commission decided that the States invited to attend the closed meetings of the Commission under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) should have the right to attend and to participate in the entire discussion of the situation concerning them, and to be present during the adoption of the final decision taken in regard to that situation (decision 9 (XXXVI)).

78. All actions taken under the procedure governed by Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Council. The documentation pertaining to the procedure is also confidential.

79. At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on Situations, as well as other confidential documents pertaining to the sub-item, including the confidential report of the fifty-first session of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/2000/R.1 and addenda). Observations which may be received from the Governments concerned (to be issued in the E/CN.4/2000/R.2 series) will also be made available. The above-mentioned confidential documents will be handed to the members of the Commission at the session.

80. Chapter XV of the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session (E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54) is also relevant to this sub-item.

Item 10. Economic, social and cultural rights

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

81. In its resolution 1999/21, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Member States and to seek their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations, and to submit a report thereon to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/46).

Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development

82. In its resolution 1998/24, the Commission on Human Rights decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on the effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo (Venezuela) was appointed Special Rapporteur, in August 1998. In its resolution 1999/22, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to present to it, on an annual basis, an analytical report on the implementation of that resolution, paying particular attention to:

(a) The negative effects of the foreign debt and the policies adopted to face it on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in developing countries;

(b) Measures taken by Governments, the private sector and international financial institutions to alleviate such effects in developing countries, especially the poorest and heavily indebted countries.

At the present session, the Commission will have before it the joint report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on foreign debt and the independent expert on structural adjustment policies (E/CN.4/2000/51).

Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights

83. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/81, Ms. Fatma Zohra Ksentini (Algeria) was appointed Special Rapporteur on this question. In its resolution 1998/12, the Commission decided to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a period of three years. In its resolution 1999/23, the Commission urged the Special Rapporteur to continue to undertake, in consultation with the relevant United Nations bodies and organizations and the secretariats of relevant international conventions, a global, multidisciplinary and comprehensive study of existing problems of and solutions to illicit traffic in and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, in particular in developing countries, with a view to making concrete recommendations and proposals on adequate measures to control, reduce and eradicate these phenomena. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Fatma Zohra Ouhachi Vesely (E/CN.4/2000/50 and Add.1).

The right to food

84. In its resolution 1999/24, the Commission invited the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the implementation of that resolution to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/48).

Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights

85. In its resolution 1998/33, the Commission decided, as part of its efforts to impart a higher visibility to economic, social and cultural rights, to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur whose mandate would focus on the right to education, as laid down in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the relevant and applicable provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Ms. Katarina Tomasevski (Croatia) was appointed Special Rapporteur, in August 1998. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/6 and Add.1-2).

86. In its resolution 1999/25, the Commission requested the High Commissioner to urge all States to submit their comments on the report by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Commission on a draft optional protocol for the consideration of communications in relation to the Covenant (E/CN.4/1997/105, annex) and taking into account the comments received, to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on options relating to the proposal for a draft optional protocol. In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it, respectively, the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/49) and the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/47).

Human rights and extreme poverty

87. In its resolution 1998/25, the Commission decided to appoint, for a period of two years, an independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to:

(a) Evaluate the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and extreme poverty, including through the evaluation of measures taken at the national and international levels to promote the full enjoyment of human rights by persons living in extreme poverty;

(b) Take into account in particular the obstacles encountered and progress made by women living in extreme poverty as regards the enjoyment of their fundamental rights;

(c) Make recommendations and, as appropriate, proposals in the sphere of technical assistance.

88. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1998/25, Ms. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium) was appointed independent expert in August 1998. The independent expert submitted her interim report (E/CN.4/1999/48) to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

89. In its resolution 1999/26, the Commission invited the independent expert to continue her reflection, in accordance with her mandate, with a view, in particular, to report on her activities to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session, underlining in particular the best

practices observed during her visits and making this report available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, as appropriate, for their sessions during the same year. The Commission also requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider the possibility of holding a workshop with the independent expert and the experts from the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in 1999 with a view to consultations also involving the relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council on the main elements of a possible draft declaration on human rights and extreme poverty.

90. the workshop was held in Geneva on 30 and 31 August 1999. The Commission will have before it the report of the independent expert and the report of the workshop (E/CN.4/2000/52 and Add.1).

Effects of structural adjustment policies on the full enjoyment of human rights

91. In its decision 1999/104, the Commission decided to extend for one year the mandate of the independent expert, Mr. Fantu Cheru (United States of America) to: (a) assist the working group on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights in the fulfilment of its mandate, in particular by elaborating draft basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment policies, and (b) monitor new developments, including actions and initiatives being taken by international financial institutions, other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with respect to structural adjustment policies and human rights, and to submit a revised report to the Working Group at its third session. The Commission also decided to authorize the Working Group to meet for two weeks well in advance of, but at least four weeks prior to, the fifty-sixth session of the Commission with the mandate to: (a) consider the updated report of the independent expert and comments received thereon; (b) elaborate basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights which could serve as a basis for a continued dialogue between human rights bodies and the international financial institutions; and (c) report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

92. The Economic and Social Council approved that decision in its decision 1999/251. The Commission will have before it the report of the working group (E/CN.4/2000/53) (see also para. 82 above).

Other matters

93. In connection with the present agenda item, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft decisions 2, 3 and 4 in chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54) and to resolutions 1999/8, 1999/9, 1999/10, 1999/11, 1999/12, 1999/30 and decision 1999/108 of the Sub-Commission.

94. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/172, entitled "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures".

Item 11. Civil and political rights, including questions of:

(a) Torture and detention

(b) Disappearances and summary executions

(c) Freedom of expression

(d) Independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, impunity

(e) Religious intolerance

(f) States of emergency

(g) Conscientious objection to military service

Human rights and forensic science

95. In its resolution 1998/36, the Commission requested the Office of the High Commissioner to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on progress made in this matter, including:

(a) The availability of a comprehensive and up-to-date list of forensic experts;

(b) A revised standardized service agreement regulating the use of the forensic experts, including provisions for the protection of the experts who so serve.

96. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/57).

Human rights and terrorism

97. In resolution 1999/27, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect information, including a compilation of studies and publications, on the implications of terrorism as well as on the effects of the fight against terrorism, on the full enjoyment of human rights from all relevant sources, including Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, and to make it available to the concerned special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights for their consideration. The Commission decided to continue consideration of the question at its fifty-sixth session as a matter of priority.

98. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft decision 7 in chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session (E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54) and to resolution 1999/26 of the Sub-Commission.

Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality

99. In its resolution 1999/28, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect information on this question from all relevant sources and to make it available to the Commission on Human Rights for its consideration, and decided to remain seized of the matter. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/56).

Hostage-taking

100. In its resolution 1999/29, the Commission decided to remain seized of this matter.

Promotion of the right to democracy

101. In its resolution 1999/57, the Commission requested the High Commissioner, in her report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, to reflect progress on the implementation of that resolution, and decided to continue consideration of the matter at its fifty-sixth session (see also para. 14 above).

Sub-item (a) Torture and detention

Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

102. At its forty-eighth session, in its resolution 1992/43, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment designed to establish a preventive system of visits to places of detention, using as a basis for its discussion the draft text proposed by the Government of Costa Rica on 22 January 1991, and to consider implications of its adoption and the relationship between the draft optional protocol, regional instruments and the Committee against Torture.

103. At its fifty-fifth session, in resolution 1999/30, the Commission requested the open-ended working group, in order to continue its work, to meet prior to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for a period of two weeks, with a view to completing expeditiously a final and substantive text, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The working group met from 4 to 15 October 1999 in Geneva. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the working group (E/CN.4/2000/58).

Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

104. In its resolution 1999/32, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Commission an annual report on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/59).

Special Rapporteur on the question of torture

105. At its forty-first session the Commission, in its resolution 1985/33, decided to appoint a special rapporteur to examine questions relevant to torture. The current special rapporteur, Mr. Nigel S. Rodley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), was appointed to the post in April 1993. In its resolution 1999/32, the Commission invited the Special Rapporteur to present an interim report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the overall trends and developments with regard to his mandate and a full report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/9 and Add.1-4) (see also paras. 66-67 above).

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

106. In December 1981, the General Assembly, in its resolution 36/151, established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and adopted the arrangements for the management of the Fund (A/36/540). Voluntary contributions paid to the Fund are distributed, through established channels of assistance, as medical, psychological, psychiatric, social, economic or legal assistance to the victims of torture and their relatives. The Fund is administered by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General with the advice of a Board of Trustees authorized to promote and solicit contributions and pledges.

107. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1999/32, requested the Secretary-General to continue to include the Fund on an annual basis among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities and renewed its request to the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the appeals of the Commission for contributions to the Fund. The Commission called upon the Board of Trustees of the Fund to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session and present an updated assessment of the global need for international funding of rehabilitation services for victims of torture and requested the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Commission informed of the operations of the Fund on an annual basis. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Fund to the General Assembly (A/54/177) and updated information for the Commission (E/CN.4/2000/60 and Add.1).

Question of arbitrary detention

108. At its forty-seventh session, in resolution 1991/42, the Commission decided to create, for a three-year period, a working group composed of five independent experts, with the task of investigating cases of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with relevant international standards or the relevant international legal instruments accepted by the States concerned. At its fifty-third session, in resolution 1997/50, the Commission decided to renew, for a three-year period, the mandate of the Working Group.

109. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission, in resolution 1999/37, requested the Working Group to submit to it, at its fifty-sixth session, a report on its activities and on the

implementation of that resolution, and to include any suggestions and recommendations which would enable it to carry out its task in the best possible way, and to continue its consultations to that end within the framework of its terms of reference.

110. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/2000/4 and Add.1-2).

Sub-item (b) Disappearances and summary executions

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

111. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/35, Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya) was appointed Special Rapporteur. Following the resignation of Mr. Wako in March 1982, Mr. Bacre W. N'diaye (Senegal) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1998/68, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three years. Following the resignation of Mr. N'diaye, Ms. Asma Jahangir (Pakistan) was appointed Special Rapporteur, in August 1998. In its resolution 1999/35, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to submit to it, on an annual basis, his findings, together with conclusions and recommendations, as well as such other reports as the Special Rapporteur deemed necessary in order to keep the Commission informed. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/3 and Add.1-3) (see also paras. 66-67 above).

Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

112. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/173, the Commission by resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, decided to establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons. The Commission has regularly renewed the Group's mandate since this time, most recently at its fifty-fourth session when, in its resolution 1998/40, it extended the Working Group's mandate for three years. In its resolution 1999/38, the Commission requested the Group to report on its activities to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (E/CN.4/2000/64 and Add.1-2).

113. In connection with the present sub-item, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1999/24, entitled "Draft international convention on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance", adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54, chap. II).

Sub-item (c) Freedom of expression

Right to freedom of opinion and expression

114. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/45, Mr. Abid Hussain (India) was appointed Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression. In its resolution 1999/36,

the Commission decided to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further three years. At its present session, pursuant to its resolution 1999/36, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/63 and Add.1-4).

Sub-item (d) Independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, impunity

Human rights in the administration of justice, in particular of children and juveniles in detention

115. In its resolution 1998/39, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to present a report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on practical measures for the implementation of the international standards in the field of human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice, including on the role of technical assistance of the United Nations system in this regard.

116. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/54).

Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers

117. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1994/41, Mr. Param Cumaraswamy (Malaysia) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1997/23, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years.

118. In its resolution 1999/31, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the activities relating to his mandate to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (E/CN.4/2000/61 and Add.1).

Right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms

119. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1998/43, requested the Chairman of the Commission to appoint an expert to prepare a revised version of the basic principles and guidelines on the right to reparation for victims of [gross] violations of human rights and international humanitarian law elaborated by Mr. van Boven and contained in document E/CN.4/1997/104, taking into account the views and comments provided by States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Mr. Charif Bassiouni (Egypt/United States of America) was appointed independent expert, in August 1998.

120. In its resolution 1999/33, the Commission requested the independent expert to complete his work and submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Commission in its resolution 1998/43, a revised version of the basic principles and guidelines prepared by Mr. Theo van Boven (E/CN.4/1997/104, annex) taking into account the views and comments of States and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Commission will have before it the report prepared by the independent expert (E/CN.4/2000/62).

Sub-item (e) Religious intolerance

Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

121. At its forty-second session, in resolution 1986/20, the Commission decided to appoint a special rapporteur to examine incidents and governmental actions which were inconsistent with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (General Assembly resolution 36/55).

122. Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia), who succeeded Mr. Angelo d'Almeida Ribeiro (Portugal) as Special Rapporteur, in 1993, submitted successive reports (E/CN.4/1994/79; E/CN.4/1995/91 and Add.1; E/CN.4/1996/95 and Add.1-2; E/CN.4/1997/91 and Add.1; E/CN.4/1998/6 and Add.1 and 2; E/CN.4/1999/58 and Add.1-2) to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth to fifty-fifth sessions, as well as to the General Assembly at its fiftieth to fifty-third sessions (annexes to documents A/50/440; A/51/542 and Add.1-2; A/52/477 and Add.1; A/53/279; A/54/386).

123. At its fifty-fourth session, in resolution 1998/18, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three years.

124. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/65 and Add.1) submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1999/39.

Sub-item (f) States of emergency

125. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission, in its decision 1998/108, having taken note of the final report and the tenth annual list of States which, since 1 January 1985, had proclaimed, extended or terminated a state of emergency submitted by Mr. Leandro Despouy, the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/19 and Add.1), decided to request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session, and every second year thereafter, a list of States in which a state of emergency was proclaimed or was continued during the reporting period. At its fifty-first session, the Sub-Commission had before it a list of States which have proclaimed or continued a state of emergency during the reporting period of 1997-1999 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/31) prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to Commission decision 1998/108.

Sub-item (g) Conscientious objection to military service

126. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission, in resolution 1998/77, requested the Secretary-General to collect information from Governments, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on recent developments in this field and to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission decided to consider this matter further at its fifty-sixth session.

127. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/55).

Other matters

128. In connection with the present agenda item, the attention of the Commission is drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/156, entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"; 54/159, entitled "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance"; 54/163, entitled "Human rights in the administration of justice"; and 54/164, entitled "Human rights and terrorism". The attention of the Commission is also drawn to decision 1999/103 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54, chap. II).

Item 12. Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective:

(a) Violence against women

Traffic in women and girls

129. In its resolution 1999/40, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide the Commission at its fifty-sixth session with a report on activities of United Nations bodies and other international organizations pertaining to the problem of trafficking in women and girls. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/66).

Integrating the human rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations

130. At its fiftieth session, the Commission adopted resolution 1994/45, entitled "The question of integrating the rights of women into the human rights mechanism of the United Nations and the elimination of violence against women", in which, inter alia, it called for intensified effort at the international level to integrate the equal status of women and the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity and to address these issues regularly and systematically throughout relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms.

131. In its resolution 1999/41, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of that resolution. Pursuant to that request, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/67 and Add.1).

Sub-item (a) Violence against women

132. At its fiftieth session, in resolution 1994/45, the Commission decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on violence against women, including its causes and consequences. Subsequently Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka), was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1997/44, the Commission decided that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur should be renewed for a period of three years and requested the Special Rapporteur to report annually to the Commission on activities relating to her mandate. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/68 and Add.1-5) (see also paras. 66-67 above).

133. In connection with the present agenda item, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/133, entitled "Traditionary or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls"; 54/134, entitled "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women"; 54/137, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"; 54/138, entitled "Violence against women migrant workers"; 54/141, entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action"; 54/142, entitled "Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development

and peace for the twenty-first century'". The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Sub-Commission resolutions 1999/13, 1999/14, 1999/15 and 1999/16 and to paragraphs 3 to 11 of resolution 1999/17.

Item 13. Rights of the child

The impact of armed conflict on children

134. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/77, recommended that the Secretary-General appoint for a period of three years a special representative on the impact of armed conflict on children and requested the special representative to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights an annual report containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict. Mr. Olara Otunnu (Côte d'Ivoire) was subsequently nominated as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. At its present session, the Commission will have before it the reports of the Special Representative (E/CN.4/2000/71 and A/54/430).

Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

135. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1992/74, adopted the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The Commission requested all States to inform the Sub-Commission periodically of measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action and on the efficacy of such measures and requested the Sub-Commission to submit every two years a report to the Commission on the state of implementation of the Programme of Action by all States.

136. The Sub-Commission, at its fiftieth session, in its resolution 1998/19, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a report on measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action.

137. At the present session, the Commission will have before it a note by the secretariat (E/CN.4/2000/72) transmitting the report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/15 and Add.1), containing the replies received from States concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Abduction of children from northern Uganda

138. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission, in resolution 1998/75, recognizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures, nationally, regionally and internationally, to protect the civilian population, especially women and children, in northern Uganda from the effects of armed conflict, requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. At its present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/69).

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

139. At its forty-sixth session, in its resolution 1990/68, the Commission decided to appoint a special rapporteur to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes. Subsequently, Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand) was appointed Special Rapporteur. Following the resignation of Mr. Muntarbhorn in October 1994, Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos (Philippines) was appointed Special Rapporteur.

140. The Commission, in resolution 1998/76, decided to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further three years. Pursuant to the request contained in its resolution 1999/80, the Commission will have before it at its present session the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/73 and Add.1-3). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraphs 50-52 of resolution 1999/17 of the Sub-Commission.

Draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for their prevention and eradication

141. At its fiftieth session, in resolution 1994/90, and in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/156, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights responsible for elaborating, as a matter of priority and in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, guidelines for a possible draft optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures required for their prevention and eradication.

142. At its fifty-first session, in resolution 1995/78, the Commission decided that the working group should elaborate, as a matter of priority and in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and on the basis of the guidelines contained in annex I of its report (E/CN.4/1995/95), a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

143. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission considered the report on the fifth session of the working group (E/CN.4/1999/74) and, in its resolution 1999/80, requested the working group to meet early in 2000 for a maximum of two weeks in order to make further progress with the aim of finalizing its work before the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the working group on its sixth session (E/CN.4/2000/75).

Draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts

144. At its fiftieth session, in its resolution 1994/91, the Commission on Human Rights decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission to elaborate, as a matter of priority, a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, using as one basis for its discussions the preliminary draft optional protocol submitted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (E/CN.4/1994/91).

145. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission, in resolution 1999/80, welcomed the report of the working group on its fifth session (E/CN.4/1999/73) and requested the working group to meet in early 2000, in order to make further progress with the aim of finalizing its work before the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the working group on its sixth session (E/CN.4/2000/74).

Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

146. In its resolution 1999/80, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a report on the rights of the child, with information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the problems addressed in that resolution. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the

Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/70). The reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its twentieth (CRC/C/84), twenty-first (CRC/C/87) and twenty-second (CRC/C/90) sessions will be available.

147. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/148, entitled "The girl child", and 54/149, entitled "The rights of the child".

Item 14. Specific groups and individuals:

(a) Migrant workers

(b) Minorities

(c) Mass exoduses and displaced persons

(d) Other vulnerable groups and individuals

Sub-item (a) Migrant workers

Violence against women migrant workers

148. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1998/17, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session a comprehensive follow-up report on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, taking into account the views of States and based on the expertise of and all available information from authorities and bodies within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other sources, including non-governmental organizations. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/76).

Human rights of migrants

149. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1999/44, decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to examine ways and means to overcome the obstacles existing to the full and effective protection of the human rights of this vulnerable group, including obstacles and difficulties for the return of migrants who are non-documented or in an irregular situation. The Economic and Social Council approved that decision in its decision 1999/239.

150. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1999/44, Ms. Gabriela Rodríguez Pizarro (Costa Rica) was appointed Special Rapporteur, in August 1999. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/2000/82).

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

151. In its resolution 1999/45, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a report on the status of the Convention and on the efforts made by the secretariat to promote the Convention and the protection of the rights of migrant workers. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/77).

152. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/158, entitled "International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families"; 54/166 entitled "Protection of migrants" and 54/169, entitled "Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification".

Sub-item (b) Minorities

Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

153. In its resolution 49/192, the General Assembly called upon the Commission on Human Rights to examine, as a matter of priority, ways and means to promote and protect effectively the rights of persons belonging to minorities as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/24, the Sub-Commission established, initially for a three-year period, an inter-sessional working group consisting of five of its members to meet each year for five working days, in particular to:

(a) Review the promotion and practical realization of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(b) Examine possible solutions to problems involving minorities, including the promotion of mutual understanding between and among minorities and Governments; and

(c) Recommend further measures, as appropriate, for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

154. In its resolution 1998/19, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Working Group with a view to its holding one session of five working days annually. In its resolution 999/48, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/79) and the report of the Working Group on its fifth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/21).

Tolerance and pluralism as indivisible elements in the promotion and protection of human rights

155. In its resolution 1998/21, the Commission called upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office to include details of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner to implement the present resolution in the report of the High Commissioner to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. Information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner to implement Commission resolution 1998/21 is included in the report of the High Commissioner submitted under agenda item 4 (E/CN.4/2000/12/Add.1) (see also para. 14 above).

156. In connection with this sub-item, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/162, entitled "Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities". The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1999/23 and decision 1999/109 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fiftieth-first session.

Sub-item (c) Mass exoduses and displaced persons

Human rights and mass exoduses

157. At its fifty-fourth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1998/49, requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide information and comments, and to prepare and submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, within existing resources, a report on measures to prevent violations and denials of human rights that lead to and take place during mass exoduses and displacements. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/81).

Internally displaced persons

158. In its resolution 1998/50, the Commission decided to extend for a further three years the mandate of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Mr. Francis Deng (Sudan).

159. In its resolution 1999/47, the Commission requested the Representative of the Secretary-General to continue to report on his activities to the General Assembly and to the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission will have before it the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (E/CN.4/2000/83 and Add.1-3).

160. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to decision 1999/108 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session, and to draft decision 9 proposed to the Commission for action, contained in chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session (E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/167, entitled "Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons".

Sub-item (d) Other vulnerable groups and individuals

Contemporary forms of slavery

161. In its resolution 1999/46, the Commission noted that the Secretary-General has not yet received any information about the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults and, in order to enable the Commission to examine this question, again requested the Secretary-General to seek information among relevant specialized agencies, working closely in particular with the Advisory Committee on Health Research of the World Health Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization, and to include an analysis of the information received in an updated report to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/78).

162. In its resolution 1999/46, the Commission also requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Fund (E/CN.4/2000/80 and Add.1).

163. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolutions 1999/16, 1999/17 and 1999/18 and decision 1999/112 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54, chap. II).

Item 15. Indigenous issues

Working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration

164. In its resolution 1995/32, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration, considering the draft contained in the annex to Sub-Commission resolution 1994/45, entitled "draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples". In its resolution 1999/50, the Commission recommended that the working group meet for 10 working days and requested it to submit a progress report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Economic and Social Council approved that decision in its decision 1999/240. The working group met from 18 to 29 October 1999. The Commission will have before it the report of the working group on its fifth session (E/CN.4/2000/84).

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

165. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People commencing on 10 December 1994. In its resolution 50/157, the General Assembly adopted the Programme of Activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People as contained in the annex to the resolution and requested the Secretary-General to report on progress made at the national, regional and international levels to the General Assembly. The Commission, in resolution 1999/51, requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in her capacity as Coordinator for the Decade, to submit an updated annual report reviewing activities within the United Nations system under the programme of activities for the Decade to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/85). This report also contains relevant information on the financial status and activities of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and the Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

A permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system

166. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1998/20, decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group, from within existing overall United Nations resources, to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system. In its resolution 1999/52, the Commission decided to re-establish the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group established in accordance with resolution 1998/20 to meet for eight working days prior to the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, and requested the working group to submit, with a view to completing its task, one or more concrete proposals on the establishment of a permanent forum for consideration by the Commission at that session. The Economic and Social Council approved that decision in its decision 1999/242. The Commission will have before it the report of the working group (E/CN.4/2000/86).

167. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft decisions 5 and 6 in chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54) and to resolutions 1999/19, 1999/20 and 1999/21 and 1999/22 of the Sub-Commission.

168. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/150 entitled "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People".

Item 16. Report of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights:

(a) Report and draft decisions

(b) Election of members

Sub-item (a) Report and draft decisions

169. The report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session is contained in document E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54.

170. At its fifty-first session, the Sub-Commission adopted 30 resolutions and 17 decisions; also six Chairperson's statements were made which are reproduced in the report.

171. Chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission contains nine draft decisions proposed to the Commission for action. They are as follows:

1. The rights of non-citizens

2. Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

3. The Social Forum

4. The right to adequate food and to be free from hunger

5. Working Group on Indigenous Populations

6. Working paper on indigenous peoples and their relationship to land

7. Terrorism and human rights

8. Reservations to human rights treaties

9. Housing and property restitution in the context of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

172. Annex V to the report of the Sub-Commission contains a list of the resolutions and decisions of the Sub-Commission referring to matters which are drawn to the attention of the Commission.

173. In its resolution 1999/81, the Commission requested the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/2000/87). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Sub-Commission decision 1999/114.

Sub-item (b) Election of members

174. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1334 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1986/35 of 23 May 1986 and decisions 1978/21 of 5 May 1978 and 1987/102 of 6 February 1987, the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-fourth session in 1988, elected 26 members of the Sub-Commission, as well as their alternates, if any, from nominations of experts made by States Members of the United Nations on the following basis:

seven members from African States; five members from Asian States; three members from Eastern European States; five members from Latin American States; six members from Western European and other States.

175. Pursuant to the procedure established in Council resolution 1986/35, members of the Sub-Commission are elected for a term of four years and half of its membership and the corresponding alternates, if any, are elected every two years.

176. As the term of office of half of the membership of the Sub-Commission has expired, the Commission is called upon to elect Sub-Commission members and alternates in accordance with the following pattern: four members from African States; two members from Asian States; two members from Eastern European States; two members from Latin American States; and three members from Western European and other States.

177. At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/88 and addenda) containing the names and biographical data of the candidates nominated for election by Member States.

178. In its resolution 1999/81, the Commission reaffirmed its requests to States:

(a) To nominate as members and alternate members of the Sub-Commission independent experts of recognized competence in the field of human rights, as well as to respect fully the independence of members and alternates;

(b) When nominating candidates for the Sub-Commission, to submit nominations sufficiently early so as to enable the members of the Commission to thoroughly assess the qualifications and the independence of the nominees.

179. The attention of the Commission is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/32, by which the Council decided that, notwithstanding paragraph 2 of article 13 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, certain rules should henceforth apply to the Sub-Commission. Under these rules, the nomination of a candidate for membership of the Sub-Commission may be accompanied by a nomination of an expert of the same nationality, to be elected simultaneously with the candidate for membership, who may serve temporarily as an alternate if the member is unable to attend; the qualifications for alternates are to be the same as for members and no person may serve as an alternate for a member except the expert so elected.

Item 17 Promotion and protection of human rights:

(a) Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights

(b) Human rights defenders

(c) Information and education

(d) Science and environment

Impunity

180. In its resolution 1999/34, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to again invite States to provide information on any legislative, administrative or other steps they have taken to combat impunity for human rights violations in their territory and to provide information on remedies available to the victims of such violations. The Commission also requested the

Secretary-General to collect the information and comments received pursuant to that resolution and to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/90).

Impunity of perpetrators of violations of economic, social and cultural rights

181. In its resolution 1999/58, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to collect the information and comments received pursuant to that resolution and to submit a report thereon to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/91).

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

182. In its resolution 1999/59, the Commission decided to consider this issue again in the future when appropriate.

183. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolutions 1999/8 and 1999/29 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54, chap. II).

Question of the death penalty

184. In its resolution 1999/61, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit his sixth quinquennial report on capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, due in 2000 in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/57 of 28 July 1995, to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/92).

185. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1999/4 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54, chap. II).

Towards a culture of peace

186. In its resolution 1999/62, the Commission requested the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights to prepare a report, taking into consideration the comments and views of all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on the contribution of the promotion and protection of human rights to the further development of a culture of peace, and to present this report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Office of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/97).

Fundamental standards of humanity

187. In its resolution 1999/65, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue to study and consult on this issue and to submit a report, entitled "Fundamental standards of humanity", to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, taking into account comments received and relevant new developments. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/94).

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

188. In its resolution 1999/68, the Commission decided to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-sixth session. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Sub-Commission resolution 1999/25, entitled "Promotion of dialogue on human rights issues".

Human duties and responsibilities

189. In its decision 1999/111, the Commission decided to postpone consideration of draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.85, entitled "Human duties and responsibilities", to the next session of the Commission.

Sub-item (a) Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights

Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights

190. In its resolution 1998/9, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions, a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols, including all reservations and declarations. Accordingly, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2000/89).

191. For the text of reservations, declarations, notifications and objections relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights see document E/C.12/1993/3/Rev.4 of 5 August 1999; relating to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto, consult the Web site of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.unhchr.ch).

192. In connection with the present sub-item of the agenda, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft decision 8, in chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission on its fifty-first session (see E/CN.4/2000/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/54), and to resolutions 1999/5 and 1999/27 of the Sub-Commission. In its resolution 1999/5, entitled "Continuing of obligations under international human rights treaties", the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of withdrawals and reservations with regard to international human rights treaties to the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission. The Sub-Commission decided to recommend that the Commission on Human Rights consider the implications of withdrawal from, or limitation of the scope of, international treaty obligations at its next session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/96).

Sub-item (b) Human rights defenders

Implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

193. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, adopted the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, annexed to that resolution. The Assembly invited Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to disseminate the Declaration and to promote universal respect and understanding thereof.

194. In its resolution 1999/66, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to consider appropriate ways for the effective promotion and implementation of the Declaration and to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session with proposals thereon and, in preparing his report, to seek the views of Governments, specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. At the present session the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/95).

195. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/170, entitled "Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms", and to resolution 1999/3 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session.

Sub-item (c) Information and education

United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education

196. At its fifty-fifth session, in resolution 1999/64, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session, a report on the implementation of that resolution. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/93).

197. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/161, entitled "United nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights".

Sub-item (d) Science and environment

Human rights and the follow-up to the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files

198. In its decision 1999/109, the Commission decided to remove the question from its agenda, since the applicable guidelines are progressively being taken into consideration by States. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to entrust the competent inspection bodies with the task of ensuring the implementation of the guidelines by the organizations concerned within the United Nations system.

Other matters

199. In connection with item 17 of the provisional agenda, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to the following resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session: 54/157, entitled "International Covenants on Human Rights"; 54/160, entitled "Human rights and cultural diversity"; 54/165, entitled "Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights"; 54/168, entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes"; 54/173, entitled "Strengthening of the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization"; 54/174, entitled "Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity"; 54/181, entitled "Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights". The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Sub-Commission decision 1999/111.

Item 18. Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms

(a) Treaty bodies

(b) National institutions and regional arrangements

(c) Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights

Sub-item (a) Treaty bodies

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

200. In its resolution 1998/27, the Commission invited the Secretary-General to continue to solicit the views of Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and interested persons on the report of the independent expert on enhancing the long-term effectiveness of the United Nations human rights treaty system and to submit a report thereon, including the Secretary-General's own views on the legal, administrative and other implications of the report's recommendations, taking into account further developments, to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/98). In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on measures taken to implement that resolution and obstacles to its implementation, and on measures taken or planned to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the effective operation of the human rights treaty bodies. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/106).

Sub-item (b) National institutions and regional arrangements

Regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region

201. In its resolution 1999/69, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a report containing the conclusions of the Eighth Workshop on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region and information on the progress achieved in the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/102).

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

202. In its resolution 1999/72, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/103).

203. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/176, entitled "National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights".

Sub-item (c) Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights

United Nations staff

204. In its resolution 1998/37, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a report on the situation of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation who are imprisoned, missing or held in a country against their will, on new cases which have been successfully settled as they relate to the principles set out in the International Covenants on Human Rights, and on the implementation of the measures referred to in that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/99).

205. In the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session the comprehensive and independent study requested, from within existing resources, in resolution 1997/25 to shed further light on the safety and security problems which United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation currently face, taking into account the evolution of the nature of United Nations missions around the world and their greater responsibilities, giving due consideration to the views of the main United Nations agencies concerned and those of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/100).

Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

206. In its resolution 1999/70, the Commission requested the High Commissioner to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of that resolution to the Commission at its fifty sixth session, which should include:

(a) The composition of the staff of the Office, organized by the five United Nations regional groups established by the General Assembly and reflecting, inter alia, grade, nationality and gender, including with regard to non-regular staff;

(b) Measures adopted to improve the current situation and their results;

(c) Recommendations to improve the current situation.

The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/104).

Human rights and thematic procedures

207. In its decision 1999/110, the Commission, reaffirming its resolution 1998/74 and mindful of the ongoing discussions on the issue of the review of the mechanisms of the Commission, decided to consider that question again at its fifty-sixth session under the relevant agenda item.

208. In accordance with paragraph 10 (b) of Commission resolution 1998/74, a list of all persons currently mandated to carry out the thematic and country procedures, including their country of origin, is provided in an annex to the present document.

209. In connection with the present item and with item 4 of the provisional agenda, the attention of the Commission is drawn to a note by the High Commissioner for Human Rights transmitting the report of the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme, held in Geneva from 31 May to 3 June 1999 (E/CN.4/2000/5) (see also para. 15 above).

Item 19. Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights

Advisory services, technical cooperation and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

210. In its resolution 1998/57, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary administrative assistance for the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, to arrange meetings of the Board and to ensure that its conclusions were reflected in the annual report to the Commission on Human Rights on technical cooperation in the field of human rights. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit an analytical report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on the progress and concrete achievements made as well as obstacles encountered in the implementation of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights and on the operation and administration of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

211. In its resolution 1999/73, entitled "Mainstreaming technical cooperation in all areas of human rights", the Commission called upon the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare and submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session a compendium of institutions and resource centres in developing countries specializing in human rights-related activities with a view to promoting South-South cooperation. The Commission also called upon the Office of the High Commissioner to make available to the Commission on Human Rights on an annual basis details of the persons included on its roster of experts available for technical cooperation activities, to advertise widely in the media, especially in developing countries, its need for such experts and to invite all States to nominate experts for inclusion on the roster. The Commission called upon the High Commissioner to include information on the implementation of that resolution in her analytical report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session on the progress and concrete achievements made, as well as obstacles encountered, in the implementation of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/105 and Add.1).

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

212. Following the resignation of Mr. Mohammed Charfi (Tunisia) at the end of 1996, Ms. Mona Rishmawi (Jordan) was appointed independent expert. In its resolution 1999/75, the Commission requested the independent expert to report on the human rights situation in Somalia to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. The Commission will have before it the report of the independent expert (E/CN.4/2000/110).

Situation of human rights in Cambodia

213. In its resolution 1999/76, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session on the role and achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights and on the recommendations made by the Special Representative on matters within his mandate.

214. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden) (E/CN.4/2000/109) and the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/108).

Situation of human rights in Haiti

215. In its resolution 1999/77, the Commission welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of technical ccoperation in Haiti and requested the Secretary-General to submit a further report on the implementation of the programme to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. This information will be included in the Secretary-General's report on advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/2000/105 and Add.1) (see also paras. 210-211 above). In the same resolution, the Commission invited the independent expert, Mr. Adama Dieng (Senegal), to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on developments in the human rights situation in Haiti. The Commission will have before it the report of the independent expert (E/CN.4/2000/111).

Question of assistance to Chad

216. In its decision 1999/102, the Commission decided to consider the question of assistance to Chad under the agenda item entitled "Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights" and to request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a progress report at its fifty-sixth session on the establishment and implementation of a technical cooperation project based on the joint needs-assessment mission to Chad undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme in October 1998. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/2000/107).

217. In connection with the present item, the attention of the Commission is also drawn to General Assembly resolutions 54/171, entitled "Situation of human rights in Cambodia", and 54/187, entitled "Situation of human rights in Haiti".

Item 20. Rationalization of the work of the Commission

218. In its decision 1998/112, the Commission, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission, decided to appoint the Bureau to undertake a review of those mechanisms with a view to making recommendations to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission had before it the report of the Bureau at its fifty-fourth session (E/CN.4/1999/104 and Corr.1).

219. In a statement made by the Chairperson on 29 April 1999 and agreed on by consensus by the Commission (see E/1999/23-E/CN.4/1999/167, para. 552), the Commission decided to establish an inter-sessional open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission to continue the comprehensive examination of the Bureau report as well as other contributions in this connection. The Working Group had a total of 15 meeting days at its disposal. The Commission requested the Chair of the Working Group to present a full report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, including recommendations for endorsement by the Commission. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Chair of the inter-sessional open-ended group (E/CN.4/2000/112).

220. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Sub-Commission decision 1999/115, entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights". In this decision, the Sub-Commission decided to request the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission's inter-sessional working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and to the Commission itself at its fifty-sixth session, for their consideration, all pertinent official data (in particular under chapters 22 and 27 of the regular budget) on all the respective estimated costs of the activities carried out by or programmed for the Sub-Commission, the Commission itself, and all other mechanisms of the Commission mentioned in chapters II, III and V of document E/CN.4/1999/104 during the current biennium. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/114).

Item 21. (a) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

(b) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

Sub-item (a) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission

221. Rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at each session of the Commission, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's subsequent session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to its work and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

222. The Commission will have before it, before the conclusion of the fifty-fifth session, a note for its consideration containing a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-seventh session, together with information concerning the corresponding documentation (E/CN.4/2000/L.1).

Sub-item (b) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

223. Rule 37 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall submit to the Council a report, which shall normally not exceed 32 pages, on the work of each session containing a concise summary of recommendations and a statement of issues requiring action by the Council. It shall as far as practicable frame its recommendations and resolutions in the form of drafts for approval by the Council.

Annex

LIST OF THEMATIC AND COUNTRY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES AND OTHER MECHANISMS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMISSION RESOLUTION 1998/74)

Country specific procedures

Afghanistan	Mr. Kamal Hossain (Bangladesh)	Special Rapporteur
Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Mr. Jiri Dienstbier (Czech Republic)	Special Rapporteur
Burundi	Ms. Marie-Thérèse Kéita-Bocoum (Côte d'Ivoire)	Special Rapporteur
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile)	Special Rapporteur
Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Gustavo Gallón (Colombia)	Special Representative
Iraq	Mr. Andreas Mavrommatis (Cyprus)	Special Rapporteur
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr. Maurice Copithorne (Canada)	Special Representative
Myanmar	Mr. Rajsoomer Lallah (Mauritius)	Special Rapporteur
Nigeria	Mr. Soli J. Sorabjee (India)	Special Rapporteur
Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli (Italy)	Special Rapporteur
Rwanda	Mr. Michel Moussalli (Switzerland)	Special Representative
Sudan	Mr. Leonardo Franco (Argentina)	Special Rapporteur

Thematic procedures

Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia	Mr. Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo (Benin)	Special Rapporteur
Education	Ms. Katarina Tomasevski (Croatia)	Special Rapporteur
Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Ms. Asma Jahangir (Pakistan)	Special Rapporteur
Extreme poverty	Ms. Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium)	Independent expert
Foreign debt	Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo (Venezuela)	Special Rapporteur
Freedom of opinion and expression	Mr. Abid Hussain (India)	Special Rapporteur
Illicit movement and dumping of toxic waste	Ms. Fatma Zohra Ouhachi Vesely (Algeria)	Special Rapporteur
Independence of judges and lawyers	Mr. Param Cumaraswamy (Malaysia)	Special Rapporteur
Internally displaced persons	Mr. Francis Deng (Sudan)	Representative of the Secretary-General
Mercenaries	Mr. Bernales Ballesteros (Peru)	Special Rapporteur
Human rights of migrants	Ms. Gabriela Rodríguez Pizarro (Costa Rica)	Special Rapporteur
Religious intolerance	Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia)	Special Rapporteur
Restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights	Mr. Charif Bassiouni (Egypt/United States of America)	Independent expert
Right to development	Mr. Arjun Sengupta (India)	Independent expert
Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos (Philippines)	Special Rapporteur
Structural adjustment policies	Mr. Fantu Cheru (United States of America)	Independent expert

Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Sir Nigel Rodley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Special Rapporteur
Violence against women, its causes and consequences	Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka)	Special Rapporteur
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	(Chairman: Mr. Kapil Sibal (India))	
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	(Chairman: Mr. Ivan Tosevski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia))	

Technical cooperation programme

Cambodia	Mr. Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Haiti	Mr. Adama Dieng (Senegal)	Independent expert
Somalia	Ms. Mona Rishmawi (Jordan)	Independent expert